

1 **REMARKS**

2 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the
3 subject application. Claims 10, 16, 23, 32, and 37 are amended. Claims 1-42 are
4 pending.

5
6 **Drawings**

7 The drawings are objected to because "MS1-309US" appears at the top of
8 the drawings. This objection is respectfully traversed because Applicant is
9 permitted to place information (e.g., docket number, serial number, inventorship,
10 etc.) within the margin on the face of the drawings. In this case, the legend "MS1-
11 309US" is the attorney docket number for the subject application.

12 The Examiner is directed to 37 CFR 1.84(c), which has recently undergone
13 a rule change. Under the previous version, a reference to the application (such as
14 the attorney docket number) could be "included in the left-hand corner, provided
15 that the reference appears within the 1.5 cm from the top of the sheet." Under the
16 new version, identifying indicia "must be placed on the front of each sheet and
17 centered within the top margin." The legend "MS1-309US" is appropriate in both
18 versions of the rule.

19 If the Office maintains this objection, Application respectfully requests the
20 basis for the objection.

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22 **35 U.S.C. §103**

23 **Claims 1-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over
24 U.S. Patent No. 6,151,707 to Hecksel et al. (hereinafter, "Hecksel") in view of
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1 U.S. Patent No. 5,495,608 to Antoshenkov (hereinafter, "Antoshenkov").

2 Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

3 The claimed invention is directed to automated configuration of a
4 computing system using zip code data entered by the user during a first boot
5 sequence. As described in the specification, a "first boot sequence" is a process
6 that is run when the user turns on the computing device for the first time. The first
7 boot sequence asks the user to enter information used to configure the hardware
8 and/or software. (See Specification, Page 6, Paragraph 1, lines 1-4).

9 During the first boot sequence, the computing device prompts a user to
10 enter a zip code via a graphical user interface or some other means. The
11 computing device passes the zip code to the zip code database either locally, or
12 over a network. The zip code is then used to look up the corresponding
13 configuration information in the zip code database. The configuration information
14 is returned and used to configure the computing device. The configuration
15 information may optionally be used to populate data fields presented in a graphical
16 user interface for the user to review and confirm its accuracy.

17 The automated configuration techniques greatly simplify the amount of
18 information a user enters during initial configuration, thereby improving the "out-
19 of-box" experience when the user turns on a new machine for the very first time.
20 With these techniques, a novice computer user can power up a new machine and
21 enter a five-digit zip code, and much of the configuration information will then be
22 automatically entered for the user. The claims capture these techniques.

23 **Claim 1** defines a "method for *operating a computing device during an*
24 *initial first boot sequence*". It includes "prompting a user to enter a zip code",
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1 “determining corresponding configuration information from the zip code”, and
2 “using the configuration information to configure the computing device.”

3 The cited combination of Hecksel and Antoshenkov fails to teach or
4 suggest this method. Hecksel is cited as teaching a general registration process in
5 which a computer user registers a new software product. More specifically,
6 Hecksel is directed to a software registration system that “implements two
7 innovative functions. First, [the system] registers a software program using
8 information from previously registered programs. Second, [the system] performs
9 configurable post-registration activities.” See Hecksel, column 3, lines 37-42.

10 Hecksel is thus concerned with registration of software loaded onto a
11 computer that has been in use for some time. Hecksel does not teach or suggest
12 techniques for automatically configuring a computing device “during an initial
13 boot sequence” as claim 1 requires.

14 As recognized by the Office, Hecksel does not use a zip code. Thus,
15 Hecksel additionally fails to teach “prompting a user to enter a zip code”,
16 “determining corresponding configuration information from the zip code”, and
17 “using the configuration information to configure the computing device” as
18 required by claim 1.

19 The Office turns to Antoshenkov for teaching use of a zip code to query a
20 database. It is noted that Antoshenkov is entirely silent as to any automated
21 configuration techniques for configuring a computer. Antoshenkov is also void of
22 any discussion of operations that occur during a first boot sequence when the
23 computing device is turned on for the first time. The Office argues, however, that
24 it would have been obvious to combine the Antoshenkov concept of querying a
25 database by zip code with the Hecksel concept of configuration information in

1 order to provide a means to minimize retrieval time. (Office Action of 4/20/01,
2 Page 3, top paragraph).

3 Even assuming that the two references are combinable, the combined
4 teaching still falls short of suggesting the claimed computer process that occurs
5 during the "initial first boot sequence". That is, since neither Hecksel nor
6 Antoshenkov discuss or even hint at techniques for enhancing the out-of-box
7 experience when a computer user initially powers on their computer for the first
8 time, the combination of references is likewise void of the necessary teaching.

9 Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the Hecksel/Antoshenkov
10 combination. Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejection of claim 1 be
11 withdrawn.

12 **Independent claims 10, 16, 23, 32, and 37** are amended to clarify that the
13 recited operations occur during the initial first boot sequence. For the reasons
14 given above with respect to claim 1, the systems and methods recited in these
15 claims are neither taught nor suggested by Hecksel and Antoshenkov.

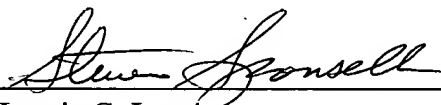
16 **Dependent claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-22, 24-31, 33-36, and 38-42** are
17 allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base claims 1, 10, 16, 23,
18 32, and 37.

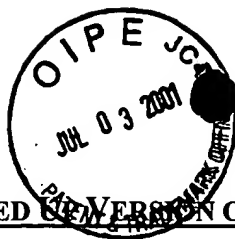
1 Conclusion

2 All pending claims 1-42 are in condition for allowance. Applicant
3 respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject
4 application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the
5 Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent
6 Action.

7
8 Respectfully Submitted,

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10 Dated: 6-28-2001

11 By:  39,384
12 Lewis C. Lee
13 Reg. No. 34,656
14 (509) 324-9256 ext. 1
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1 MARKED UP VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.121(C)(1)(ii):

2 Amend claim 10, 16, 23, 32, and 37 as follows and in accordance with 37
3 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii), by which the Applicant submits the following marked up
4 version only for claims being changed by the current amendment, wherein the
5 markings are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added
6 matter):

7
8 10. (Once Amended) A method for operating a computing device,
9 comprising:

10 executing an initial first boot sequence; and

11 during the initial first boot sequence, receiving a zip code₁[;] looking up
12 corresponding configuration information based on the zip code₁[;] and populating
13 data fields used to configure the computing device with the configuration
14 information.

15
16 16. (Once Amended) A method for operating a computing device,
17 comprising:

18 executing an initial first boot sequence, comprising:

19 receiving a zip code;

20 establishing a connection to a remote database server, the database
21 server correlating zip codes with corresponding configuration
22 information;

23 passing the zip code to the database server;

24 looking up the corresponding configuration information correlated
25 with the zip code at the database server;

1 returning the configuration information from the database server to
2 the computing device;
3 storing the zip code at the computing device;
4 populating data fields used to configure the computing device with
5 the configuration information; and
6 prompting the user to confirm accuracy of the configuration
7 information.

8
9 23. (Once Amended) A system comprising:

10 a computing device;

11 a zip code database that correlates zip codes and corresponding
12 configuration information; and

13 the computing device prompting a user, during an initial first boot
14 sequence, to enter a zip code and using the zip code to look up the corresponding
15 configuration information in the zip code database.

16
17 32. (Once Amended) A system comprising:

18 a portable computing device having a processor, memory, a small-area
19 screen, a data entry mechanism, and a transceiver for data communication;

20 a zip code database server remote from the portable computing device, the
21 zip code database server correlating zip codes with corresponding configuration
22 information; [and]

23 the computing device prompting a user, during an initial first boot
24 sequence, to enter a zip code;

1 the computing device establishing a data connection with the zip code
2 database server and sending the zip code from the transceiver to the zip code
3 database server;

4 the zip code database server determining the corresponding configuration
5 information from the zip code and returning the configuration information back to
6 the computing device; and

7 the computing device storing the configuration information in the memory.

8
9 37. (Once Amended) One or more computer-readable media storing
10 computer-executable instructions for:

11 executing an initial first boot sequence; and

12 during the initial first boot sequence, receiving a user-entered zip code[;]
13 and determining corresponding configuration information from the zip code that
14 can be used to configure a computing device.